

WASH POST 16 JUL 69

Hill to Act On New Submarine

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Congress next week will try to build up more steam for a new generation of nuclear submarines by demanding to hear Pentagon plans for developing them.

The forum, as things stand now, will be the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy—an influential force on military policy and lobbyist for more nuclear propulsion.

The promise of Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford to move ahead with a new breed of attack submarines has not satisfied the Committee.

Members want to know the specifics of the Pentagon plan. They fear Clifford's promise only means more studies.

The hearing, expected to be held in closed session next Tuesday, is being organized while the whole Pentagon decision-making process is under heavy fire.

Vice Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, director of the Navy's nuclear propulsion program, fired a salvo at the Pentagon's cost analysts in testimony released yesterday.

Cites Delays

He told the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on May 1 that these analysts have become such a "huge staff" in today's Pentagon that it now takes "about 10 years" rather than the former five to six years to bring a new weapon into being.

He said of the cost and systems analysts former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara put into business in a big way: "We are unwise to put the fate of the United States into their inexperienced hands. If we keep up this way we may find ourselves in the midst of one of their cost effectiveness studies when all of a sudden we learn that our opponents have ships that are faster or better than ours."

In still another blast, the Admiral said: "Spiritualists, sociologists and cost effectiveness analysts are embarrassingly similar at self-deception. They are, in general, guilty of playing God while neglecting the responsibility of being human..."

"Today," Rickover continued, "it is practically impossible to get any idea through the Department of Defense unless it is originated right there."

Downgrades Studies

Of the Pentagon's passion for studies, he said: "In all the years I have been in the nu-



HYMAN RICKOVER
... criticizes Pentagon

clear field I know of no study that has been made in my field by the Department of Defense which has not caused delay or which has added one iota to our national defense—not one. Not a single thing has been contributed technically to any of my projects by anyone in the Department of Defense."

Similar broadsides have been coming from Chairman L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) of the House Armed Services Committee. He even has threatened to push legislation to eliminate the post of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Analysis, a job currently held by Alain Enthoven.

The official who will have to defend the Pentagon's performance on nuclear submarines as well as decisions generally is John S. Foster Jr., director of defense research and engineering, who will be the Joint Committee's lead-off witness next week.

Clifford said last week that the Pentagon had decided to go ahead with a high-speed "super" attack submarine. The Joint Committee will try to pin the Pentagon down in its hearings on the development timetable for that submarine as well as the future of the proposed new "quiet" attack sub.